

**TENEBRAE: GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE OF
DARKNESS**

**April 15, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
4101 Washington Street NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421**

This service is part of the Triduum, literally three-day service, begun yesterday on Maundy Thursday, and concluded tomorrow at the Easter Vigil.

This service, recited and sung on the night of our Lord's death, is called Tenebrae, which means 'darkness' or shadows.' Tonight's service theme revolves around the Via Dolorosa (Way of Suffering), the route through the old city of Jerusalem that is believed to be the path Jesus walked to His crucifixion. It moves from the place of His judgment to Mt. Calvary, with stations along the route recalling certain events and people and words of Jesus.

"In all my adversities, I have not found any remedies so powerful as the passion and wounds of Jesus. In them I sleep securely. In them I rest without fear." - St. Augustine

TOLLING OF THE BELL

(Please rise and face the processional cross)

OPENING SENTENCES:

- P:** Come, let us gather again in the shadow of the cross of Christ.
- C:** **We gather to remember the overwhelming evidence of Love's ultimate sacrifice.**
- P:** Who would have guessed that the height and depth, the length and width of God's love might look like this: a forsaken Savior on a cross?
- C:** **Certainly not us. Not us, who are too often lost amid the world's distractions and responsibilities. Not us, for whom such love was offered without cost.**

P: Let us gather again in the shadow of the cross of Christ and commit ourselves to remember the price paid. Let us live our lives in a way that indicates why this Friday is called "Good."

PROCESSION AND ADORATION OF THE CROSS:

P: We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you.

C: By your cross and precious death, you have redeemed the world.

P: God forbid that I should glory

C: Except in the cross of our Lord, Jesus.

P: We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you.

C: By your cross and precious death, you have redeemed the world.

P: Surely He has borne our griefs

C: And carried our sorrows.

P: We praise you, O Christ, and we bless you.

C: By your cross and precious death, you have redeemed the world.

P: Preserve and defend us, gracious Lord,

C: So that when our last hour comes, we may know your abiding care.

OPENING HYMN: "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain" – Blue Hymnal #96

Come to Calvary's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;

Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,

In a full perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.

Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;

Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.

Your true health it will restore, So that you need thirst no more.

Come with hurts and guilts and meanness, Come, however soiled within;

From the most ingrained uncleanness, From pollution by your sin,

Wash your robes and make them white; You shall walk with God in light.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON, part 2, from Isaiah 53 *(The Message)*

They buried him with the wicked, threw him in a grave with a rich man, even though he'd never hurt a soul or said one word that wasn't true. Still, it's what GOD had in mind all along, to crush him with pain. The plan was that he give himself as an offering for sin so that he'd see life come from it—life, life, and more life. And GOD's plan will deeply prosper through him.

(Please exit the church in silence)

+ + +

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Lay Minister: Lisa Neaderhiser

Readers: Lisa Neaderhiser, Pastor Bill Hugo, Andrew Wagner, Cheryl Fristad

Ushers: Neaderhiser Team

Power Point: Aidan Neaderhiser

Acolyte: Josh Neaderhiser

Instrumentalists: Cheryl Fristad (handbells and percussion), Christine Eid (flute), Will Hugo (baritone), Andrew Wagner (violin)

Soloists: Ben Hugo, Deb Santillo, Brenda Hugo, Sarah Meier

FESTIVAL CHOIR

Bruce Blase
Judie Colaianni
Ben Hugo
Brenda Hugo
Will Hugo

Kristen Landwehr
Sarah Meier
Sydney Naber
Deb Santillo
Andrew Wagner

Karrie Kikeh, accompanist

+ + +

(Portions of the narrations copyright 1994-2006 Rev. Richard J. Fairchild and Charlene E. Fairchild, used with permission)

**Take the life that lasts forever, Trust this soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never Break his covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when he was glorified.**

(Congregation is seated)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON, part 1, from Isaiah 53 *(The Message)*

Who believes what we've heard and seen? Who would have thought GOD's saving power would look like this? The servant grew up before God—a scrawny seedling, a scrubby plant in a parched field. There was nothing attractive about him, nothing to cause us to take a second look. He was looked down on and passed over, a man who suffered, who knew pain firsthand. One look at him and people turned away. We looked down on him, thought he was scum. But the fact is, it was *our* pains he carried—*our* disfigurements, all the things wrong with *us*. We thought he brought it on himself, that God was punishing him for his own failures. But it was our sins that did that to him, that ripped and tore and crushed him—*our sins!* He took the punishment, and that made us whole. Through his bruises we get healed. We're all like sheep who've wandered off and gotten lost. We've all done our own thing, gone our own way. And GOD has piled all our sins, everything we've done wrong, on him, on him. He was beaten, he was tortured, but he didn't say a word. Like a lamb taken to be slaughtered and like a sheep being sheared, he took it all in silence. Justice miscarried, and he was led off—and did anyone really know what was happening? He died without a thought for his own welfare, beaten bloody for the sins of my people.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: As we walk these final steps with Jesus, let's pour out our hearts to Him once more.

C: **Merciful God, as we watch your Son Jesus bear our sins in his body on the cross, as we hear the comments from the crowds, as we listen to His last seven words, seven words of love, let us see and hear your love.**

L: Father, as we recall how all three hours His silence cried for mercy on the souls of all, we ask you to help us to understand the mystery of your love, and make us into a people who are ever more worthy of it and who seek to be known by how we share that love with others. In the name of Jesus,

C: **Amen.**

THE MESSAGE: "The Way of the Cross"

Station One: Jesus is Condemned to Death

NARRATIONS

L: O Lord Jesus,

C: I confess that when I have seen you in the hungry, the sick, the imprisoned, the naked, the lonely, I have often chosen not to help, or I have condemned, or I have simply remained silent. Forgive me. Grant me the grace to reach out with words and deeds of love and justice.

HYMN: "O Dearest Jesus" – Blue Hymnal #119

O dearest Jesus, what law have you broken
That such sharp sentence should on you be spoken?
Of what great crime have you to make confession,
What dark transgression?

What is the source of all your mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which you, Lord, must languish;
Yes, all the wrath, the woe that you inherit,
This I do merit.

The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;
We forfeited our lives yet are acquitted;
God is committed!

("O, Dearest Jesus", setting copyright 1982 Concordia Publishing House, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License, #100014518.)

Station Two: Jesus Accepts His Cross

NARRATIONS

L: O Lord Jesus,

C: You accepted the cross, even though it did not belong to you, because of your love for me. You carried the burden that belongs to

Station Eleven: The Burial of Jesus

NARRATION

SOLO VERSE: "Were You There?"

PRAYER:

P: Let us pray.

C: Christ Jesus, you hung upon a cross and died for us so that we might live for you.

P: Your body was broken and your blood shed so that we might be healed and made whole.

C: You were faithful unto death so that we might be faithful unto life.

P: Your last command was that we might love one another:

C: One family together from every tribe and nation,

P: A new creation united through your sacrifice,

C: Redeemed by your blood,

P: Healed by your love,

C: United by your covenant of peace.

All: In your death may we find life.

LORD'S PRAYER *(spoken quietly)*

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

CHRIST CANDLE IS RETURNED *(Our salvation is complete)*

mouth is dried up like broken pottery, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.”

HYMN: “O Perfect Life of Love”

O perfect life of Love! All, all, is finished now.
All that He left His throne above To do for us below.

And on His thorn-crowned head And on His sinless soul
Our sins in all their guilt were laid That He might make us whole.

In perfect love He dies; For me He dies, for me.
O all-atoning Sacrifice, I cling by faith to Thee.

Yet work, O Lord in me As Thou for me hast wrought;
And let my love the answer be To grace Thy love has brought.

Station Ten: Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

NARRATIONS

L: O Lord,
C: I cry to you; I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low.

MESSAGE: “Walking Under the Cross” – Pastor Bill Hugo

HYMN: “Rock of Ages” – Blue Hymnal #361

Rock of ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood, From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.

Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to thee for dress; Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.

me. Thank you. Teach me to reach out, to forgive, to remove guilt, to lighten the burdens that others bear.

CHOIR: “They Crucified My Lord” - Michael Burkhardt

Station Three: Jesus Falls

NARRATIONS

L: O Lord Jesus,
C: So much of the world’s wickedness rises out of my selfishness and fear, out of joining the crowd in jeering and mocking rather than stepping in to carry another’s burden, to help others to rise. Forgive me when I add to your suffering, Lord Jesus. Forgive me when I mock you by my unthinking, uncaring gruffness.

SOLO: “A Lamb Alone Bears Willingly”

Station Four: Jesus Meets His Mother

NARRATIONS

L: O Lord Jesus,
C: Help us to remember Mary your mother as she stood watch in her grief. Help us to remember all families when they suffer. Help us to be sources of grace and comfort to all who grieve.

CHOIR: “That Virgin’s Child” – K. Lee Scott

Station Five: Simon Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry the Cross

NARRATIONS

L: O Lord Jesus,
C: Thank you for strangers in our midst, who often show us what to do and how to do it. Open our eyes and our hearts and our courage to say “I will be the one”.

HYMN: “Take Up Your Cross”

“Take up your cross,” the Savior said, “If you would my disciple be;
Forsake the past, and come this day,
And humbly follow after me.”

Take up your cross; let not its weight Pervade your soul with vain alarm;
His strength shall bear your spirit up,
Sustain your heart, and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross, nor heed the shame, Nor let your foolish heart rebel;
For you the Lord endured the cross
To save your soul from death and hell.

Station Six: Jesus Speaks to the Weeping Women

NARRATIONS

L: O Lord Jesus,

C: Help us in our tears to remember that we must also act.

CHOIR: “Deep Were His Wounds” – Timothy Shaw

Station Seven: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

NARRATIONS

L: O Lord Jesus,

C: We reach out and grasp greedily for so much, selfishly searching for
what will satisfy when all that will satisfy is really found in you. Help
us to choose what will bring healing and wholeness.

HYMN: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

Station Eight: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

NARRATIONS

L: O Lord Jesus,

C: We have helped to nail you to the cross with every thought, word,
and action that is not based in love. Help us to turn away from hate
and vengeance, and embrace the forgiveness and new life you won
for us on the cross.

CHOIR: “He Felt the Whip” – Red/Courtney

Station Nine: Jesus Dies on the Cross

NARRATIONS

L: “My God, my God,

C: Why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me,
from the words of my groaning? Yet you are holy, enthroned on the
praises of Israel. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are
out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast. My